

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 AID-05

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 ISO-00 /069 W

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R 161430Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3680

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT: EIGHTEENTH FAO CONFERENCE: TIME SCHEDULE OF
AGENDA ITEMS

REF: STATE 241138

1. DECAPRONA HAS GIVEN INITIAL REACTION TO IMPROVED TIME SCHEDULE SUGGESTED REFTEL, AND IS DISCUSSING IT WITH FAO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE EDWARD WEST. WE THINK IT BEST TO WORK THROUGH DECAPRONA ON THIS, SINCE HE IS DIRECTLY IN CHARGE OF CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS.

2. DECAPRONA STRONGLY AGREES THAT U.S. SUGGESTIONS ON TIMETABLE IN REFTEL WOULD BE MORE LOGICAL AND GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER SEQUENCE NOW SET BY PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEE AND FAO COUNCIL, BUT HE THINKS IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO RE-DO TIMETABLE EXCEPT PERHAPS AS CONSENSUS IN GENERAL COMMITTEE OF FAO CONFERENCE. DECAPRONA IS UNCERTAIN AND FEARFUL THAT REOPENING TIMETABLE MIGHT "OPEN PANDORA'S BOX." FAO CONFERENCE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE ARE NOT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION IN PRELIMINARY FAO COUNCIL MEETING, AND DECAPRONA BELIEVES FAO COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BULA HOYOS WOULD RESIST OPENING IT IN FAO COUNCIL SESSION. DECAPRONA BELIEVES BEST WAY OF

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IMPROVING TIMETABLE WOULD BE TO RAISE IT IN GENERAL COMMIT-

TEE OF FAO CONFERENCE AT OUTSET, TEST GROUND, AND SEE WHETHER
CONSENSUS ON IMPROVED SEQUENCE MIGHT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT GET-
TING INTO INVOLVED AND PROLONGED DISCUSSIONS.

3. ANOTHER DISADVANTAGE OF REOPENING TIMETABLE WHICH DE-
CAPRONA MENTIONED, AND WHICH IS PARTICULARLY APPLICABLE IF
CHANGES ARE MADE AS LATE AS OPENING OF FAO CONFERENCE, IS
THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAVE SCHEDULED ATTENDANCE OF THEIR TOP
OFFICIALS ON BASIS OF EXISTING TIMETABLE. THIS WOULD PAR-
TICULARLY AFFECT EUROPEAN AND OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES WHO PLAN
TO HAVE THEIR HIGH OFFICIALS ATTEND ONLY A FEW DAYS. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME15001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750359-0903
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751047/aaaabpnh.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 241138
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EIGHTEENTH FAO CONFERENCE: TIME SCHEDULE OF AGENDA ITEMS
TAGS: OCON, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006